

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 042577
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 DOE-11
SOE-02 DOEE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 /052 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:DEZWEIFEL:SEB
APPROVED BY NEA:MDRAPER
NEA/IAI:WBSMITHII
NEA:ALATHERTON (IN DRAFT)
-----074634 171808Z /43

O R 171751Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T STATE 042577

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PBOR , EG, US, IS

SUBJECT: PLANS FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTION IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: A) STATE 34836; B) TEL AVIV 2127; C) CAIRO 5069

1. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFICULT
ISSUES ON WHICH WE CURRENTLY MUST EXPRESS USG DISAGREEMENT
WITH GOI POSITIONS. WE, TOO, WISH TO AVOID "OVERLOADING
THE CIRCUIT." HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE EXPEDI-
TIOUSLY AND CLEARLY ESTABLISH USG POSITION RE GOI PLANS
FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTION FROM "ALMA" FIELD.

2. INDIRECT APPROACH SUGGESTED IN REFTEL B WO'D NOT
ADEQUATELY ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE. ALL A'ERICAN
COMPANIES INVOLVED, AS WELL AS GOI AND GOE, ALREADY
ARE FULLY AWARE OF OUR LEGAL POSITION; EACH HAS OUR LEGAL
MEMORANDUM ON THIS SUBJECT. PRODUCTION ASPECT IS POTEN-
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TIALLY TROUBLESOME ONE WHICH CAN BE ADDRESSED ONLY BY
GOI. NEPTUNE OFFICIALS NOT SURPRISINGLY TAKE POSITION
THAT COMPANY IS MERELY AGENT FOR EXECUTING GOI POLICY
IN THIS REGARD.

3. ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST YOU MAKE DEMARCHE AS OUTLINED IN
REFTEL A. WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION LEVEL AT WHICH

DEMARCHE IS TO BE MADE (E.G. DISCUSSION WITH MFA DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE).

4. CONCERNING MONCRIEF AND NORTHERN SINAI, INFORMATION IN PARA 1 OF REFTTEL B IS AT VARIANCE WITH WHAT COMPANY OFFICIALS TOLD US ON JANURAY 10. AT THAT TIME, THEY STATED THAT FIELDS WERE NOT YET PRODUCING. AT ANY RATE, ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA IS NOT COMPLICATED BY CONFLICTING COUNTERCLAIM AS IN NEPTUNE/AMOCO SITUATION IN GULF OF SUEZ. ACCORDINGLY, WE DO NOT WANT TO RAISE NORTHERN SINAI ACTIVITY WITH GOI AT THIS TIME. SHOULD ISRAELIS DO SO IN CONTEXT OF YOUR DISCUSSION OF PLANS FOR PRODUCTION FROM "ALMA" FIELD, YOU SHOULD RESPOND THAT DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF ANY NEWLY DISCOVERED MINERAL RESOURCES WOULD BE CONTRARY TO OUR LEGAL POSITION.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PRODUCTION, GULFS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE042577
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DEZWEIFEL:SEB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780074-0382
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780239/aaaabee.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 560008d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 34836, 78 TEL AVIV 2127, 78 CAIRO 5069
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3554301
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLANS FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTION IN GULF OF SUEZ
TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, EG, US, IS
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/560008d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014